

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 170812Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4740

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 282

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, LT, BC

SUBJECT: OAU SPECIAL SESSION ON SOUTH AFRICA

REF: GABORONE 304; MASERU 251

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE INFORMED ME ON MARCH 15 THAT HE WILL BE GOING TO ALGIERS DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 17 FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA. ACCORDING TO KOTSOKOANE IT WAS BOUTEFLIKA WHO SPONSORED THE RESOLUTION AT THE RECENT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING CALLING FOR A SPECIAL SESSION TO DISCUSS WHAT THE OAU POSTURE SHOULD BE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

2. KOTSOKOANE SAID THE LESOTHO RESOLUTION WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CONDEMNED APARTHEID, CALLED FOR
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THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND COOPERA-

TION BY BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, MALAWI, AND MOZAMBIQUE ON WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF WORK FOR MIGRANT LABORERS IN SOUTH AFRICA. KOTSOKOANE SAID HE DID NOT CRITICIZE THE EFFORTS OF PRESIDENTS KAUNDA, KHAMA, NYERERE TO RESOLVE THE RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTE. IN PRESENTING HIS RESOLUTION KOTSOKOANE SAID HE DID MAKE CLAR THAT NOTHING HAD CHANGED WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S PEACEMAKING EFFORTS IN RHODESIA DID NOT IN ITSELF CONSTITUTE GROUNDS FOR DETENTE WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

3. KOTSOKOANE HOLDS THERE IS NO BASIS FOR DETENTE OR DIALOGUE BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA. HE ASSERTS THAT DETENTE MEANS PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS; IN HIS VIEW BLACK AFRICAN STATES COULD NOT HAVE DETENTE WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN THE ABSENCE OF A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE APARTHEID RACIAL SYSTEM. KOTSOKOANE FURTHER HOLDS THAT DIALOGUE MEANS TALKING; HE CONTENDS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DIALOGUE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND BLACK AFRICAN STATES UNTIL DIALOGUE EXISTS WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF. THIS MEANS THAT VORSTER SHOULD HAVE DIALOGUE NOT ONLY WITH LEADERS OF HIS BANTUSTAN CREATIONS; HE SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO TALK WITH LEADERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ANC AND PAC. KOTSOKOANE EXPLAINED THAT THE HOMELANDS WOULD HAVE ONLY 13 PERCENT OF THE LAND AREA OF SOUTH AFRICA AND REPRESENTED 48 PERCENT OF BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA; 52 PERCENT OF BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA LIVE OUTSIDE THE HOMELANDS AND HAVE NO EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

4. KOTSOKOANE CONCEDES THAT DIALOGUE BETWEEN BLACK AFRICA AND SOUTH AFRICA COULD BE AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT FOR CHANGE BUT THE AFRICAN NATIONALISTS MUST BE INVOLVED AS IS THE CASE IN RHODESIA.
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